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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c), please amend the claims as indicated in marked-up form below, where additions are underlined, deletions are struck through, and new claims are presented without markings.

Claims 1-42. (Canceled)

Claim 43. (Canceled)

Claim 44. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 43, wherein to create the metric, the processing system further:~~ A method comprising:

providing a carousel schedule to a processing system, the carousel schedule including a plurality of modules, at least one of the modules having at least two instances; creating a metric for the carousel schedule, wherein to create the metric, the processing system

determines an interval difference for each instance of each module of the plurality of modules,

applies a function to the interval difference to determine a result for each instance of each module,

adds the result for each instance of each module to a sum, the sum corresponding to the metric,

adds a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any of the modules equaling ~~one~~; and one, and

adds a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any of the modules equaling negative one; and
outputting the metric, the metric for use in evaluating the carousel schedule.

Claim 45. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 43;~~ A method comprising:
providing a carousel schedule to a processing system, the carousel schedule
including a plurality of modules, at least one of the modules having at least two
instances;

creating a metric for the carousel schedule, wherein to create the metric, the
processing system

determines an interval difference for each instance of each module of the
plurality of modules,

applies a function to the interval difference to determine a result for each
instance of each module, and

adds the result for each instance of each module to a sum, the sum
corresponding to the metric; and

outputting the metric, the metric for use in evaluating the carousel schedule,

wherein to apply ~~a function~~ the function to the interval difference, the processing system:

determines an absolute value of the interval difference; or

determines a square of the interval difference; or

determines a Logarithmic of a number, wherein the number is determined
by adding one to a square of the interval difference.

Claim 46. (Canceled)

Claim 47. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 46, wherein to create the metric, the processing system further:~~ A method comprising:

providing a carousel schedule to a processing system, the carousel schedule including a plurality of modules, at least one of the modules having at least two instances;
creating a metric for the carousel schedule, wherein to create the metric, the processing system

determines an interval difference for each instance of each module of the plurality of modules,

applies a function to the interval difference to determine a result for each instance of each module,

adds the result for each instance of each module to a sum, the sum corresponding to the metric,

adds a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any of the modules equaling one; and one, and

adds a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any of the modules equaling negative one; one; and

providing the metric to a user interface, the metric for use in evaluating the carousel schedule.

Claim 48. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 46,~~ A method comprising:

providing a carousel schedule to a processing system, the carousel schedule including a plurality of modules, at least one of the modules having at least two instances; creating a metric for the carousel schedule, wherein to create the metric, the processing system

determines an interval difference for each instance of each module of the plurality of modules,

applies a function to the interval difference to determine a result for each instance of each module, and

adds the result for each instance of each module to a sum, the sum corresponding to the metric; and

providing the metric to a user interface, the metric for use in evaluating the carousel schedule,

wherein to apply ~~a function~~ the function to the interval difference, the processing system:

determines an absolute value of the interval difference; or

determines a square of the interval difference; or

determines a Logarithmic of a number, wherein the number is determined by adding one to a square of the interval difference.

Claims 49-55. (Canceled)

Claim 56. (Currently Amended) ~~The article of manufacture of claim 55, wherein creating the metric further includes~~ An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer-readable medium encoded with computer instructions capable of being executed by a computer and that cause the computer to:

receive a carousel schedule, the carousel schedule including a plurality of modules, at least one of the modules having at least two instances;

create a metric for the carousel schedule, wherein creating the metric includes:

determining an interval difference for each instance of each module of the plurality of modules,

applying a function to the interval difference to determine a result for each instance of each module,

adding the result for each instance of each module to a sum, the sum corresponding to the metric,

adding a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any of the modules equaling one; and one, and

adding a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any of the modules equaling negative one; one; and

output the metric, the metric for use in evaluating the carousel schedule.

Claim 57. (Currently Amended) ~~The article of manufacture of claim 55,~~ An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer-readable medium encoded with computer instructions capable of being executed by a computer and that cause the computer to:

receive a carousel schedule, the carousel schedule including a plurality of modules, at least one of the modules having at least two instances;

create a metric for the carousel schedule, wherein creating the metric includes:

determining an interval difference for each instance of each module of the plurality of modules,

applying a function to the interval difference to determine a result for each instance of each module, and

adding the result for each instance of each module to a sum, the sum corresponding to the metric; and

output the metric, the metric for use in evaluating the carousel schedule,

wherein applying a ~~function~~ the function to the interval difference comprises:

determining an absolute value of the interval difference; or

determining a square of the interval difference; or

determining a Logarithmic of a number, wherein the number is determined by adding one to a square of the interval difference.

Claim 58. (Canceled)

Claim 59. (Currently Amended) ~~The article of manufacture of claim 58, wherein creating the metric further includes:~~ An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer-readable medium encoded with computer instructions capable of being executed by a computer and that cause the computer to:

receive a carousel schedule, the carousel schedule including a plurality of modules, at least one of the modules having at least two instances;

create a metric for the carousel schedule, wherein creating the metric includes

determining an interval difference for each instance of each module of the plurality of modules,

applying a function to the interval difference to determine a result for each instance of each module,

adding the result for each instance of each module to a sum, the sum corresponding to the metric,

adding a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any of the modules equaling one; and one, and

adding a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any of the modules equaling negative one; one; and

provide the metric to a user interface, the metric for use in evaluating the carousel schedule.

Claim 60. (Currently Amended) ~~The article of manufacture of claim 58;~~ An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer-readable medium encoded with computer instructions capable of being executed by a computer and that cause the computer to:

receive a carousel schedule, the carousel schedule including a plurality of modules, at least one of the modules having at least two instances;

create a metric for the carousel schedule, wherein creating the metric includes

determining an interval difference for each instance of each module of the plurality of modules,

applying a function to the interval difference to determine a result for each instance of each module, and

adding the result for each instance of each module to a sum, the sum corresponding to the metric; and

provide the metric to a user interface, the metric for use in evaluating the carousel schedule,

wherein applying a function to the interval difference comprises:

- determining an absolute value of the interval difference; or
- determining a square of the interval difference; or
- determining a Logarithmic of a number, wherein the number is determined by adding one to a square of the interval difference.

Claims 61-66. (Canceled)